

Claims as amended by Preliminary Amendment filed 10/19/01

For the convenience of the Examiner and the Office all the claims pending in the above application are provided herewith.

1. (Amended) A fumigation apparatus including:

a first conventional shipping container which at least in part defines a fumigation chamber being adapted to contain produce to be fumigated, and

mobile fumigation means operatively coupled to the conventional shipping container, the mobile fumigation means including:

fumigant inlet means operatively coupled to the container to allow a flow of a fumigant into the fumigation chamber;

extraction means also being operatively coupled to the container to remove a majority of the fumigant from the fumigation chamber; and

absorption means being operatively coupled to the extraction means, the absorption means being designed to absorb substantially all of the fumigant extracted from the fumigation chamber.

2. (Amended) A fumigation apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the mobile fumigation means is defined by a second shipping container.

3. (Amended) A fumigation apparatus as defined in claim 1 [or 2], wherein the fumigation chamber is a pair of shipping containers positioned alongside one another each operatively coupled to the mobile fumigation means.

4. (Amended) A fumigation apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein the mobile fumigation means is defined by a partition wall in the first shipping container, the wall separating the mobile fumigation means and the fumigation chamber.

5. (Amended) A fumigation apparatus as defined in [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the absorption means comprises an absorption bed including activated carbon [to

which] absorbing at least part of the [extracted] fumigant [attaches] extracted from the fumigation chamber.

6. (Amended) A fumigation apparatus as defined in [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, also including a sliding bed or floor on which the produce resides, the bed or floor being configured to slide into and out of the fumigation chamber wherein loading and unloading of the produce to be fumigated can be performed externally of the chamber.

7. (Amended) A fumigation apparatus as defined in [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the mobile fumigation means incorporates a source of the fumigant which is directly associated with a heating source, the latter used to convert the fumigant into a gaseous form.

8. (Amended) A fumigation apparatus as defined in [any one of claims 1 to 6] claim 1, wherein the fumigant inlet means is adapted to detachably couple to a mobile source of the fumigant.

9. (Amended) A fumigation apparatus as defined in [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the mobile fumigation means incorporates a system control box and a system of fumigant delivery pipes and valves adapted in use to [supply] deliver fumigant from a supply source to the fumigation chamber.

10. (Amended) A fumigation apparatus as defined in [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the fumigant inlet means includes a dispersion pipe system located in the upper part of the fumigation chamber.

11. (Amended) A fumigation apparatus as defined in [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the fumigation chamber contains a plurality of small diameter floor- and wall-mounted pipes independently connected via an appropriate system of taps and connectors to a fumigant sampling and detection meter unit located in the control room.

12. (Amended) A fumigation apparatus as defined in [claims 9 to 11] claim 9, wherein the system control box contains a fumigant sampling and detection meter unit and power supply switches for mixing fans, exhaust fan, lights, gas heaters and valve actuators.

13. A method of fumigating produce, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a fumigation apparatus including a conventional shipping container which at least in part defines a fumigation chamber and a mobile fumigation means operatively coupled to the container;

locating the produce to be fumigated in the fumigation chamber;

providing a flow of a fumigant to the fumigation chamber;

extracting at least some of the fumigation from the chamber; and

absorbing at least part of the fumigant extracted from the fumigation chamber.

14. A method of fumigating produce as defined in claim 13, wherein the fumigant extracted from the chamber is absorbed on an absorption bed.

15. (Amended) A method of fumigating produce as defined in claim [13 or] 14 further comprising washing at least part of the absorption bed to remove the absorbed fumigant.

16. (New) A fumigation apparatus as defined in claim 2, wherein the fumigation chamber is a pair of first shipping containers positioned alongside one another each operatively coupled to the mobile fumigation means.

17. (New) A fumigation apparatus as defined in claim 16, wherein the fumigant inlet means is adapted to detachably couple to a mobile source of the fumigant.

18. (New) A fumigation apparatus as defined in claim 17, wherein the mobile fumigation means incorporates a system control box and a system of fumigant delivery pipes and valves adapted in use to deliver fumigant from a supply source to the fumigation chamber.

19. (New) A fumigation apparatus as defined in claim 18, wherein the fumigant inlet means includes a dispersion pipe system located in the upper part of the fumigation chamber.

20. (New) A fumigation apparatus as defined in claim 19,  
wherein the fumigation chamber contains a plurality of small diameter floor-and wall-mounted pipes independently connected via an appropriate system of taps and connectors to a fumigant sampling and detection meter unit located in the control room .

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